

## **Bosscher, Valerie**

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**From:** Bosscher, Valerie  
**Sent:** Friday, October 15, 2021 11:38 AM  
**To:** Gehrke, John - FSA, Springfield, IL  
**Subject:** RE: [External Email]RE: Fanter CAFO approval, near Kilbourne, Mason County, Illinois

Great, thanks!

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**From:** Gehrke, John - FSA, Springfield, IL <[john.gehrke@usda.gov](mailto:john.gehrke@usda.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 15, 2021 11:27 AM  
**To:** Bosscher, Valerie <[bosscher.valerie@epa.gov](mailto:bosscher.valerie@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [External Email]RE: Fanter CAFO approval, near Kilbourne, Mason County, Illinois

I can give you a call between 1:00 & 2:00

*John Gehrke*  
217 331-6873

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**From:** Bosscher, Valerie <[bosscher.valerie@epa.gov](mailto:bosscher.valerie@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 15, 2021 9:44 AM  
**To:** Gehrke, John - FSA, Springfield, IL <[john.gehrke@usda.gov](mailto:john.gehrke@usda.gov)>  
**Cc:** Bauer, Candice <[bauer.candice@epa.gov](mailto:bauer.candice@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [External Email]RE: Fanter CAFO approval, near Kilbourne, Mason County, Illinois

Thanks, John. Do you have a few minutes for a quick chat? Today, 10am-11am, 1-2pm, and 3-4pm all work for me right now.

Thanks,  
Val

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**From:** Gehrke, John - FSA, Springfield, IL <[john.gehrke@usda.gov](mailto:john.gehrke@usda.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 12, 2021 8:36 AM  
**To:** Bosscher, Valerie <[bosscher.valerie@epa.gov](mailto:bosscher.valerie@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Bauer, Candice <[bauer.candice@epa.gov](mailto:bauer.candice@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [External Email]RE: Fanter CAFO approval, near Kilbourne, Mason County, Illinois

Good morning Val,

The public notice and also a new article was published in last week's paper. I assure you that we played no part in having the EPA in the headline. We very much appreciate the assistance you provided on this review! I have a better understanding of the process and will refer these much earlier in the process if we have additional requests. Thank you!

**John W. Gehrke**  
Farm Loan Chief  
Illinois Farm Service Agency, USDA  
3500 Wabash Ave.  
Springfield, IL 62711-8287  
**Phone (217) 331-6873**  
FAX (855) 800 1760

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From: Bosscher, Valerie <[bosscher.valerie@epa.gov](mailto:bosscher.valerie@epa.gov)>

Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 3:34 PM

To: Hugh McHarry **Not Responsive**

Cc: Gehrke, John - FSA, Springfield, IL <[john.gehrke@usda.gov](mailto:john.gehrke@usda.gov)>; Bauer, Candice <[bauer.candice@epa.gov](mailto:bauer.candice@epa.gov)>

Subject: [External Email]RE: Fanter CAFO approval, near Kilbourne, Mason County, Illinois

**[External Email]**

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Good afternoon, Mr. McHarry,

Based on the latest information EPA Region 5 received from USDA-FSA, the public notice of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) had been scheduled to be published in a local paper in late September. I am looping in Mr. Gehrke who would have the most up-to-date information on the status of the loan.

The FONSI and the Environmental Assessment (EA) are posted to the USDA Illinois FSA public internet site:

- Environmental Assessment: [https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/State-Offices/Illinois/pdfs/Final\\_EA\\_Fanter\\_Farms\\_With\\_Attachments\\_Signed.pdf](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/State-Offices/Illinois/pdfs/Final_EA_Fanter_Farms_With_Attachments_Signed.pdf)
- FONSI: [https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/State-Offices/Illinois/pdfs/Fanter\\_Farms\\_FONSI\\_Final\\_Signed.pdf](https://www.fsa.usda.gov/Assets/USDA-FSA-Public/usdfiles/State-Offices/Illinois/pdfs/Fanter_Farms_FONSI_Final_Signed.pdf)

Sincerely,

Val

Valerie Bosscher, P.E. Environmental Engineer  
Ground Water & Drinking Water Branch U.S. EPA Region 5  
77 W. Jackson Blvd. (WG-15J) Chicago, IL 60604  
Ph 312-886-6731

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From: Hugh McHarry <**Not Responsive**>

Sent: Friday, October 8, 2021 2:36 PM

To: Bosscher, Valerie <[bosscher.valerie@epa.gov](mailto:bosscher.valerie@epa.gov)>

Subject: Fanter CAFO approval, near Kilbourne, Mason County, Illinois

This CAFO to be built to Mashhoff specification to house 2499 Mashhoff owned hogs has been approved by the Illinois Department of Agriculture, despite being on an uncontained portion of the Mahomet Aquifer. The project is to be funded by a USDA Beginning Farmer Loan and was subjected to an environmental review that ignored extensive expert testimony and documentation of the fact that it would be damaging to the aquifer and especially to residents of Peterville, Illinois. Two homes are shown within a half mile of the CAFO site and in the direction of natural water flow of the aquifer. All 48 residents of Peterville used shallow pump points to get drinking water from the upper levels of the aquifer. The soil is sandy and drilled wells typically collapse. This truly is a public health crisis waiting to happen.

John Gehrke of USDA's Springfield Office has been non-responsive, and despite no public notice, the CAFO applicant claimed publicly that his loan has been approved.

I'm a member of the Mason County Board and responding to a petition signed by over two hundred prospective neighbors of the CAFO and opposing it. We would be very appreciative of any assistance you may be able to provide. The situation is urgent.

I'm sure you are aware of the fact that the uncontained portion of the aquifer is already displaying elevated levels of pollutants and especially near large hog confinements.

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